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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 000620

SIPDIS

NSC FOR CBARTON  
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLD  
USAID DCHA/OTI FOR RPORTER  
FBI CT DIVISION/OO FOR NGAMBA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/03/2013  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KJUS](#) [VE](#)  
SUBJECT: ADVANCING THE REVOLUTION: BRINGING THE ATTORNEY  
GENERAL'S OFFICE T HEEL

CLASSIFIED BY: POLITICAL COUNSELOR ABELARO A. ARIAS FOR REASONS 1.4 (B  
) AND (D)

1. (C ON FEBRUARY 18, CARMEN ALGUINDIGUE, DIRECTOR OF  
PROCEDURAL ACTION AND ONE OF THREE KEY CAREER EMPLOYEES IN  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, WAS FIRED. ACCORDING TO  
LEGATT, AT LEAST TWO MORE TOP EMPLOYEES IN THE ORGANIZATION  
WILL BE FIRED AS PART OF A STRATEGY TO FORCE THE ATTORNEY  
GENERAL'S OFFICE TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF PRESIDENT  
CHAVEZ.

2. (C) IN MID-FEBRUARY, SOURCES TOLD LEGATT THAT ATTORNEY  
GENERAL ISAIAS RODRIGUEZ ANNOUNCED A SHIFT IN POLICY TO  
MANIPULATE CASE INVESTIGATIONS TO FAVOR GOV INTERESTS. ANY  
CASES BROUGHT AGAINST THE CHAVEZ GOVERNMENT WOULD BE HANDLED  
IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THE OUTCOMES WOULD NOT EMBARRASS OR  
DAMAGE THE GOV. SEVERAL SENIOR OFFICIALS, INCLUDING  
ALGUINDIGUE, OBJECTED TO WHAT THEY VIEWED AS A POLICY OF  
POLITICAL FAVORITISM AND WERE CONSEQUENTLY INFORMED THEY  
WOULD BE REPLACED BY CHAVEZ SUPPORTERS BY MARCH 1. AMONG  
THOSE WHO EXPECT TO BE FIRED ARE RAMON MEDINA, DIRECTOR OF  
CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS, AND MAGALY MALPICA, CHIEF OF THE  
DIRECTORATE OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS. MEDINA OVERSEES 70  
PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S PUBLIC PROSECUTORS. MALPICA IS IN  
CHARGE OF INVESTIGATING PUBLIC OFFICIALS ACCUSED OF ABUSE OF  
AUTHORITY AND/OR VIOLATING THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS. MEDINA AND  
ALGUINDIGUE WERE KEY CONTACTS FOR LEGATT AND NAS.

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COMMENT  
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3. (C) BY REMOVING THESE OFFICIALS, THE CHAVEZ GOVERNMENT IS  
DISMANTLING THE LAST BULWARK OF INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY IN  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE. ALTHOUGH LEGATT EXPECTS  
CONTINUING COOPERATION FROM VENEZUELAN LAW ENFORCEMENT ON  
STRICTLY CRIMINAL MATTERS, COOPERATION IN POLITICALLY  
SENSITIVE CASES WILL LIKELY BE MINIMAL AT BEST. IN ADDITION,  
LEGATT IS PESSIMISTIC REGARDING THE EMBASSY'S FUTURE ABILITY  
TO INFLUENCE INSTITUTIONAL REFORM IN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S  
OFFICE, ESPECIALLY THROUGH US-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS.  
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